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Leesburg S.W.A.T. team ranks first in division

Recently the Leesburg Police Department traveled to the Orange County Sheriffs Office training range to compete in the 2004 SWAT Round-Up International Competition. This year marks the tenth year that the Leesburg Police Department has fielded a team in this competition. The weeklong competition ran from Monday, November 29th through Friday, December 3rd. The competition is comprised of five physically demanding events which challenge an officer's firearms skills as well as his physical and mental fitness.

The events require a team of five officers to work together to accomplish the mission at hand. LPD SWAT placed in the top 15 in four out of the five events and ranked 17th place in the overall competition out of 65 teams. Leesburg SWAT also received a trophy and was ranked number one in the small team division. The division was defined as having less than 100 sworn officers. (Leesburg has 74 sworn officers.)

The competitors at the Round-Up include teams from all over the world including Germany, Hungary, Sweden, and Bosnia. Many large agencies from across the country also compete including Las Vegas Metro PD, the Federal Air Marshals, NASA Security force, and Washington DC Metro Police. The Leesburg Police Department came in 17th place overall at the end of the week among all of the teams. .

In addition to the event competition, the team members are required to attend training classes each day. It is a good time for officers to learn new and up to date techniques. It also provides the officers with the ability to network with other SWAT teams from across the country and develop relationships that could be beneficial in the future.